

QA-140
Wright's Chance
Centreville
Quasi-Public

Wright's Chance is an excellent example of a vernacular house form found throughout the Tidewater region. The five bay facade and center passage plan are combined with a gambrel roof, story-and-a-half form. The interior is notable for exceptionally fine paneled fireplace walls in the principal rooms on both floors. The handsome open-string stair, the unusual feather edge paneled partitions on the second story and the generous proportions of the second story stair passage provide further evidence that this outwardly modest house was among the finer frame houses of its period.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wright's Chance

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side, South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

124 South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County CourthouseLiber #: CWC 5Folio #: 85

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-140

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1964</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wright's Chance was originally located on the south side of Maryland Route 305 west of Hope. In the late spring of 1964 the house was moved to the present site on the east side of South Commerce Street. A summary of the history of the original tract known as Wright's Chance is included in QA-85, "Site of Wright's Chance". The lot on which the house now stands originally formed part of the front yard of Goldsborough House (QA-239), a late 18th century house demolished in 1963.

The house known as Wright's Chance is of frame construction, 1 1/2 stories high, five bays wide and one room deep with flush brick chimneys at each end of a gambrel roof. The exterior was restored at the time the house was moved and the foundation, chimneys, siding and roof material all date to that period. When the chimney on the south gable was rebuilt, the date "1744" was set into the exposed chimney back using dark headers. This date was based on research conducted by Guy Weatherley.

The front facade faces west to South Commerce Street. The door is in the center bay, with two 6/9 windows flanking the door on each side and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wright's Chance is an excellent example of a vernacular house form found throughout the Tidewater region. The five bay facade and center passage plan are combined with a gambrel roof, story-and-a-half form. The interior is notable for exceptionally fine paneled fireplace walls in the principal rooms on both floors. The handsome open-string stair, the unusual feather edge paneled partitions on the second story and the generous proportions of the second story stair passage provide further evidence that this outwardly modest house was among the finer frame houses of its period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-140

Breen, Robert G. "18th Century House to be Restored".

Baltimore Sun, June 29, 1964.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

9/16/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA23; Recorded March 25, 1981.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

three 6/6 shed roof dormers on the second floor. The door is a six-panel door with fully raised fielded panels and an ogee panel mold. All first floor openings are trimmed with reproduction millwork including beaded architrave trim with ogee backband and molded wood sills. The Flemish bond foundation, beaded flush siding and box cornice with complex crown mold all date to the restoration. The roof is covered with modern cedar shingles.

There are no openings in either the north or south gable walls, but the flush chimney backs are left exposed up to the first floor eave. As noted, the date "1744" has been worked into the rebuilt chimney on the south gable. The beaded flush siding, beaded corner boards and tapered rakeboards are all modern.

The rear or east facade is virtually identical to the front facade except that the 6/9 window to the right of the door has been omitted. A modern bulkhead entrance to the cellar is located in the south bay and a brick porch with iron rails serves the back door.

The interior consists of a center passage plan with simple flanking rooms on each side. The passage is offset slightly to the north of center, allowing the front and rear doors to be in line. The south room is therefore slightly larger than the north room.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The stair rises against the north wall of the passage to a landing at the rear, turns 90 degrees and rises two steps to a second landing, again turns 90 degrees and continues up to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with a handsome turned newel at the foot, a heavy molded rail and turned ballusters. The stair ends are decorated with scrolled brackets; the area below the carriage is enclosed by a single large, triangular raised panel. A four-panel door under the landing opens into a closet under the stairs. A seam in the flooring and framing evidence below indicates this was originally the location of an interior stair. The architrave trim, paneled wainscoting, and interior cornice are all reproduction millwork.

The large room to the south evidently served as the formal parlor. The fireplace is centered on the south gable wall, flanked by a pair of handsome cupboards built into fielded paneling that stretches the full width of the room. The cupboard to the right has a pair of arched glass doors above two small raised panel doors, with butterfly shelves set into a semi-circular, vaulted cabinet. The cupboard to the left has a pair of paneled doors set in the arched opening. All of the woodwork on this wall appears to be original except

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

for the cornice, which is probably based on pieces of original cornice elsewhere in the house. All of the remaining woodwork in the room is reproduction millwork, with the possible exception of part of the cornice on the north wall.

The north room is somewhat smaller than the south room and probably served as a dining room. The north gable wall is also fully paneled, with a pair of four-panel closet doors flanking the fireplace. The opening to the left or west closet was at one time crudely enlarged, but has been expertly restored to the original configuration. Both closet doors are modern four-panel reproductions. The simple board surround framing the mantel is a reproduction based on the surviving mantel in the south room. The architrave trim, wainscoting and cornice are all reproduction work.

The first floor plan is repeated on the second floor but with the west end of the stair hall partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber. This partition is constructed with vertical feather-edge panel boards alternating with vertical styles, a relatively unusual form of partition found in scattered examples throughout the county. The stair hall and landing is unusually large in this house, and the stair ballustrade is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

particularly handsome, though the turned first floor newel is omitted in favor of plain, heavy square newels with identical molded caps.

The south gable wall of the south chamber is fully paneled, with paneled closet doors flanking the fireplace. The pine paneling has been stripped and left with a natural finish. It is interesting to note that the fireplace opening is framed with fully raised paneling, while the paneling at the extreme ends of the wall is the same vertical feather-edge paneling found in the hall partition. All of the woodwork on this wall, including the fireplace surround, the paneled doors, and the cornice are original. The dormer trim, baseboard, and door architrave are reproduction work.

The north gable wall of the north room is also fully paneled, with paneled closet doors flanking the opening. This paneling is similar in form and is similarly treated with the use of vertical feather-edge paneling at each end. The fireplace opening is framed with a simple molded piece reminiscent of the remaining portions of an early mantel at Friendship (QA-163) on Kent Island. This paneled wall remains painted, probably at least partially to conceal the right hand closet door and the cornice, which have been reproduced. All other trim in this room is also new.

CONTINUATION SHEET

9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Md. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

Henry, Helen. "A Plantation House Over 200 Years Old Rescued, Restored". Sunday Sun Magazine, December 6, 1964. Photos by A. Aubrey Bodine.

"Historical Society Home Being Moved". Queen Anne's Record Observer, May 14, 1964.

Hyde, Bryden B. "The Architecture of 'Wright's Chance'". Queen Anne's Record Observer, June 10, 1965.

Joynes, J. William. "He Took a Chance--And built a copy of a 1744 home". Maryland Living, March 17, 1968.

Weatherly, Guy. "Land Transactions Give History of Wright's Chance". Queen Anne's Record Observer, March 24, 1966.

"Wright's Chance: Old House Coming to Life". Queen Anne's Record Observer, November 12, 1964.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

WRIGHT'S CHANCE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

COMMERCE STREET

CITY OR TOWN:

CENTREVILLE

STATE

MD

CODE

COUNTY:

Q. Anne's

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>							

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STREET AND NUMBER:

WRIGHT'S CHANCE

CITY OR TOWN:

CENTREVILLE

STATE:

MD

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

HALL OF RECORDS (DEED)

STREET AND NUMBER:

A

CITY OR TOWN:

ANNAPOLIS

STATE:

MD

CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

about 1 acre 33,000 sq. ft.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal ☐State ☐County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A $1\frac{1}{2}$ gambrel roofed house moved from Carville Sta. in 1964, 'Wright's Chance' has flush, beaded siding of various widths and ^{wood} shingle roof. Built on a brick base there are brick end walls visible from base to 2nd story. West wall has 1744 in headers (restoration conjectural). There are 2 end interior chimneys and 3 dormers with flat roofs on 2nd story (6/6; 4th floor windows (5/5). 4 bays on front.

There is a slight overhang (by c + 1') beaded plate + 2 floor wider than lot (by c + 1') beaded plate + corner port visible in interior.

2 room house + central hall - s parlor has original full height panelling, wainscoting, ceiling cornice, etc. Rounded headed, hemispherical cupboard + chest about either side of south fireplace. Panelling full height in other parlor wall, full height. Central staircase with turning + landing halfway up. Main bedroom above main parlor, fireplace panelling original. 7' ceilings Panelling on fireplace wall above other parlor. Teeny room in middle - top of stairs.

New cellar below house used for meeting room, (Original house had additional bldg. with kitchen and slave quarters), early beams show evidence of steps below central hall, but moved for convenience sake).

Old Smokehouse from McKenny estate on present grounds. Completely Restored 1964 - given to Society 1963

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☐

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1744

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐ArchitectureAgriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Although (heavily) restored in 1964, Wright's
 Chanu is probably exemplary of an early-mid
 18th C Md. gambrel roof plantation house
 house

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mr. John Robt. Grove, former President, during restoration

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: WDM		
ORGANIZATION: WHT		DATE: Jun 13, 1989
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WATER

STREET

BANJO LANE

STREET

LANE

LADY

HAPPY

KIDWELL

JOSEPH E. GUINN
ET AL
CWC 132/44
P. 21

JAMES D. EDWARDS
CWC 57/50
P. 10

JAMES D. EDWARDS
CWC 62/645
P. 17

ASHLEY BROTHERS, INC.
CWC 55/470
P. 15

DOUGLAS E. ANDERSON
CWC 74/555
P. 15

ROBERT J. SINAGRA
MWM 148/355
P. 14

MILDRED S. THOMPSON
CWC 55/640
P. 13

MILDRED S. THOMPSON
CWC 55/640
P. 12

ALEXANDER S. TURMAN, III
CWC 15/235
P. 11

Q.A. CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CWC 34/644
P. 9

HARRY C. BINDER, ET AL
CWC 27/57
P. 8

MARY A. SINAGRA
MWM 148/355
P. 7

GRACE B. HOLTON, JR.
CWC 55/52
P. 6

WILLIAM H. DOWNS
TSP 6/142
P. 5

VACHEL A. DOWNS, SR.
CWC 55/636
P. 2

LESTER C. LEONARD, JR.
CWC 142/375
P. 1

LESTER C. LEONARD, JR.
CWC 54/1
P. 36

THOMAS M. LOVE
CWC 110/297
P. 35

FLOWERS LOT
0.096A

JOHN M. ASHLEY
ASG JR. 12/540
P. 44

HUNT-RAY
FARM
CWC 141/160
P. 43

20' FOOTWAY

CWC 5/85

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
QUEEN ANNE'S CO.
WAC 71/225
P. 45

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CWC 23/477
0.68A
P. 41

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
CWC 29/648
1.27A
P. 67

LESTER C. LEONARD, JR.
CWC 67/162
LOT 11
P. 46

CHARLES P. WALLS
MWM 146/327
P. 78

LOT 9

WILLIAM E. DARLING
CWC 122/260
LOT 7
P. 73

DOROTHY E. WRIGHT
CWC 137/72
P. 42

ANNA H. RUDDER
CWC 65/571
P. 53

THOMAS N. GANNON
CWC 56/382
LOT 1
P. 51

ROBERT J. SINAGRA
CWC 41/352
P. 52

WILLIAM C. RUSKIN
CWC 34/212
P. 70

ROBERT L. COVINGTON
CWC 115/

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CWC 84/23
0.84A
P. 66

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
QUEEN ANNE'S CO.

LA

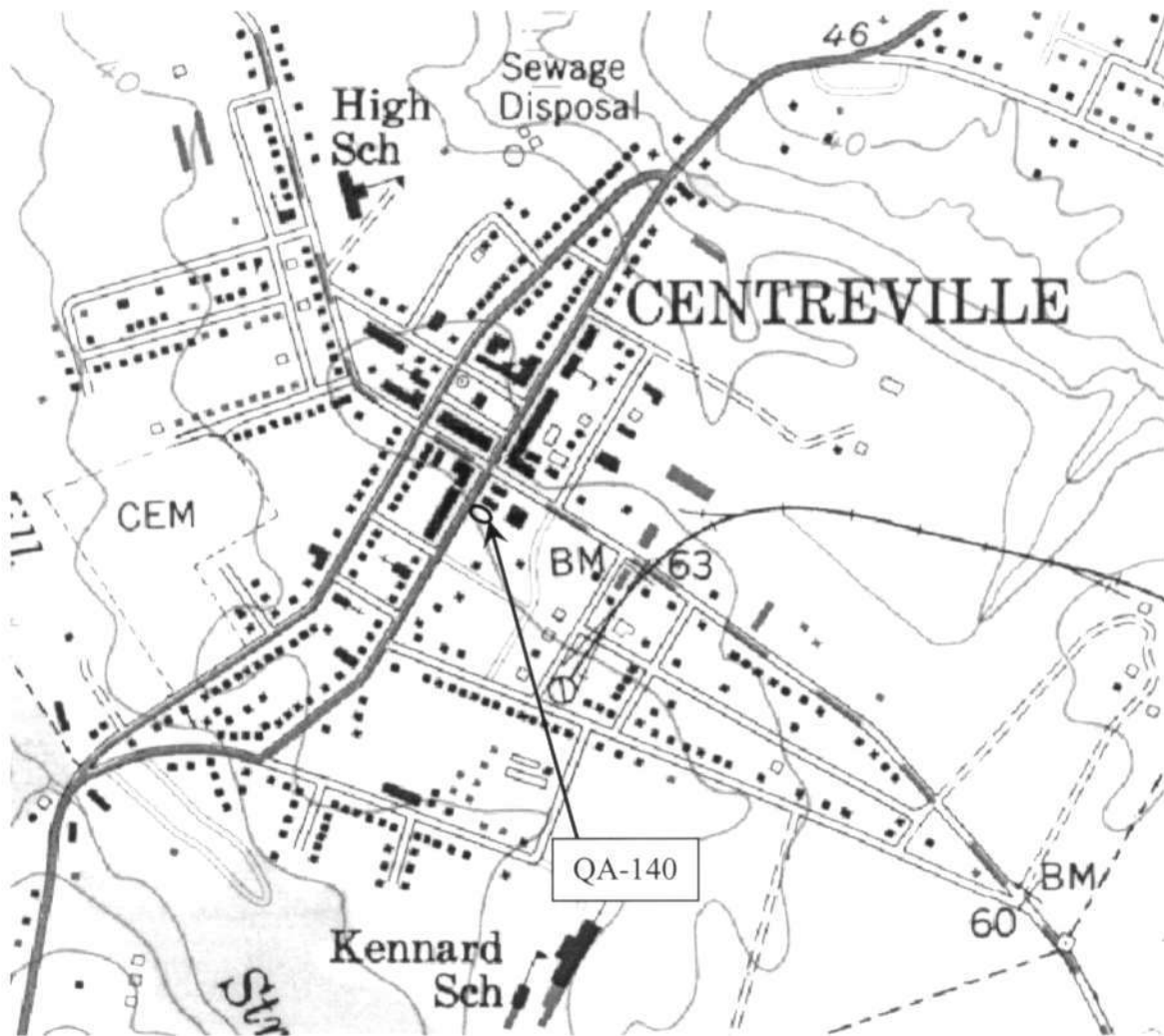
GAR

THOMAS

VICTOR F. H.

ROBERT L.

QA-140
Wright's Chance
S. Commerce St.
Centreville
Centreville Quad.
Queen Anne's Co.



QA-140
Wright's Chance

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-140 Wright's Chance
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Rear facade



QA-140 Wright's Chance
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V, May 1978
Interior Stair



Wright's Chance
Before moving

QA-140



QA-140

WC

14



Wright's Chance
with corn growing all around

QA-140



QA 140

Wright's Chance
Smokehouse



Q.A

#1-140

Wright's Chance

April 1974
JWV

• JUN • 59



WRIGHT'S CHANCE - Q.A - 140 B-44

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND

WDM # 11



WRIGHT'S CHANCE - Q.A. - 140

WDM

7/2



ought's chance
before moving

QA-140